

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMAKO 03579 221045Z

21-20

ACTION AID-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8185

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BAMAKO 3579

AFDROUGHT

ROME FOR FODAG

E O 11652 N A

SUBJ: MALI FOOD DEFICIT 1974

1. SUMMARY: MALI DROUGHT COORDINATOR, MINDEFENSE
DOUKARA HAS TRANSMITTED 30 PAGE DOCUMENT TO EMBASSY
ENTITLED QTE FOOD DEFICIT RESULTING FROM THE 1973
DROUGHT IN MALI UNQTE. CONSISTING LARGELY OF RAINFALL,
RIVER FLOODING, HARVEST, AND POPULATION STATISTICS,
REPORT ALLEGES 400,000 METRIC TONS (MT) GRAIN SHORTFALL
BASED ON 1973 HARVEST 590,000 MT AND CONSUMPTION 990,000 MT.
REPORT BEING POUCHED. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY MAJOR POINTS:

2. GENERAL SITUATION: 1973 FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF
PRONOUNCED DROUGHT. RAINFALL 27 TO 47 O/O LESS THAN NORMAL
YEARS AND ABOUT THE SAME AS LAST YEAR WHICH HAS AFFECTED
NOT ONLY FOOD CROPS BUT PARTICULARLY CASH CROP OF COTTON.
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PAGE 02 BAMAKO 03579 221045Z

FLOODING OF NIGER RIVER IN 1973 ABOUT 20 O/O LESS THAN 1972

AND 30 O/O LESS THAN IN NORMAL YEARS. ONLY 4 YEARS OUT OF LAST 67 YEARS HAVE REGISTERED LOWER RIVER LEVEL THAN 1973. INONDATION OF NIGER AND BANI RIVER BASINS 50 O/O LESS THAN NORMAL RESULTING IN MARKED REDUCTION OF FLOODING OF RICE FIELDS AND ALSO CAUSING SERIOUS REDUCTION FISH CATCHES. GRAVE SOCIAL/ECONOMIC RESULTS INCLUDING REDUCTION INCOME, ELIMINATION FOOD RESERVES, REDUCED GOVT REVENUES, ESPECIALLY FROM COTTON AND LIVESTOCK EXPORTS, AND DISEQUILIBRIUM CAUSED BY NECESSITY TO IMPORT GRAIN TO DETRIMENT OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS AND EQUIPMENT. DRAMATIC LOWERING OF WATER TABLES LEADING TO PREMATURE DRYING UP OF WELLS. COTTON CROP REDUCED 30 O/O, AND CEREAL CROPS REDUCED 45 O/O (40 O/O FOR MILLET/SORGHUM, 50 O/O FOR CORN, AND 60 O/O FOR RICE PADDY). CROP ESTIMATES ARE 500,000 MT MILLET/SORGHUM; 50,000 MT CORN, AND 40,000 MT RICE FOR TOTAL CEREAL CROP 590,000 MT. BASED ON PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION 178 KILOS, TOTAL CEREAL NEEDS ARE 990,000 MT. THIS FIGURE LARGER THAN NORMAL YEARS BECAUSE MEAT, MILK, AND FISH NOT AVAILABLE SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES TO PRO PORTION RURAL POPULATION USUALLY RELYING HEAVILY THIS DIET. CEREAL DEFICIT ABOUT 350,000 MT (50,000 MT RESIDUAL STOCKS IN OPAM REDUCE TOTAL SHORTFALL 400,000 MT TO 350,000 MT).

3. DONOR ASSISTANCE REQUESTED: DONORS ASKED TO (1) MAKE UP 350,000 MT DEFICIT; (2) PAY ALL TRANSPORT COSTS INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL; (3) PERMIT GOVT OF MALI LATITUDE TO DISTRIBUTE PART OR EVEN ALL GRAIN FREE OF CHARGE; (4) SHIP GRAINS ORDERLY SCHEDULE BETWEEN DEC-JULY IN ORDER FEED POPULATION AND ENSURE ARRIVAL GRAINS BEFORE ONSLAUGHT RAINY SEASON; (5) COORDINATE SHIPMENTS DONOR GRAIN INCLUDING PORTS OF DESTINATION AND ARRIVAL DATES; (6) PROVIDE MALI WITH MILK PRODUCTS, MEDICINES, VITAMINS, AND TRANSPORT MEANS.

4. DONOR EFFORT 1973: U.S. LEADS LIST OF GRAIN DONORS WITH 35,000 MT, EEC 25,000 MT, FRANCE 20,000 MT, USSR 13,900 MT, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM 10,000 MT, PRC 8,000 MT, AND CAMBODIA 500 MT FOR TOTAL 112,000 MT. U.S. ALSO LEADS ALL DONORS IN PERCENT OF GRAIN PROVIDED IN RELATION TO GRAIN REQUESTED (70 O/O REQUESTS FILLED). DONOR COUNTRIES AS GROUP; SUPPLIED MALI ONLY 41 O/O OF GRAIN REQUESTED (112,000 MT). ADDING UP MALI CEREAL UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BAMAKO 03579 221045Z

PRODUCTION, GOVT GRAIN PURCHASES, AND DONOR GIFTS, ONLY 81 O/O F MALI'S CONSUMER GRAIN NEEDS MET IN 1973 AMOUNTING TO 724,500 MT WHICH ONLY PERMITTED 134 KILOS PER CAPIT A.

5. SITUATION MALI'S SIXTH REGION: TOTAL GRAIN REQUIREMENT HARDEST-HIT SIXTH REGION IS 75,100 MT AND TOTAL DEFICIT IS 62,600 MT. BECAUSE OF 80 O/O CATTLE LOSS SIXTH REGION, NORMAL

PER CAPITA CEREAL CONSUMPTION 90 KILOGRAMS MUST BE
AUGMENTED TO 165 KILOS. (NATIONAL AVERAGES ARE 207 KILOS
URBAN DWELLER AND 160 KILOS RURAL POPULATION). NORMAL
CEREAL PRODUCTION SIXTH REGION 30,600 MT BUT REDUCED TO
ZERO BECAUSE OF DROUGHT.
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